

Item 10 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“Several years ago, the Council signed a Covenant with the Armed Forces. Could you advise me what has been achieved from this over the years i.e. what actual material outcomes have there been other than inviting each other to official events?”

Response to Mrs Campbell-Sinclair

The Highland Council (with partners) signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2012 and in 2018 signed up to the Covenant in its own right. The Armed Forces and Veterans' Champion chairs the Highland Armed Forces and Veterans' Community Covenant Partnership (HAFVCCP). The Partnership has set the following priorities for Highland: Economy; Children and Young People; Caring Communities; Housing and Empowering Communities. It has supported around 20 applications by community groups to the Armed Forces Community Fund and Highland Council's Funding Fair has been cited as a Case Study in a Best Practice Guide. In 2017 the Council successfully applied for more than £70,000 from the Covenant Trust to employ a dedicated Project Officer for Highland and Moray. This allowed detailed analysis of the Armed Forces community in the areas, and for the first time provided an understanding of how the local authority can improve its services to this community. In turn this has allowed provision of bespoke, in-house training for Council staff and provided a website specific to the area for the armed forces community in Highland and beyond. A detailed action plan is available showing achievements/progress. Progress on the Covenant is reported annually to Council with the most recent report being September 2018 - https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4035/highland_council
The next Annual Report will be provided in December.